

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.	:	Unknown	Confirmation No.	Unknown
Applicant	:	Hartmut ALBRODT et al		
Filed	:	September 24, 2004		
TC/A.U.	:	Unknown		
Examiner	:	Unknown		
Docket No.	:	R.41000		
Customer No.	:	02119		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b),
AND EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE CITED PRIOR ART**

Sir:

The undersigned hereby requests that the prior art cited on the attached prior art statement be placed of record in the application file.

This citation of prior art is made under 37 CFR 1.97(b), since it is being filed within three months of the filing of this application, and before receipt of the first Office action.

The relevance of the prior art cited on the attached form 1449 is as follows:

DE 44 25 634 C1

This patent discloses an assembly which doses liquid reactants from a reservoir by means of a pump through a tube to a PEM-fuel cell combustion system (PEM proton conducting electrolyte membrane). The novelty is that a dosing control valve (7, 7a) is arranged in the tube (5, 5a) between the pump (4, 4a) and fuel cell system (6, 6a). Further that a return tube (8, 8a) passes from the tube (5, 5a) upstream of the dosing control valve (7, 7a). A differential pressure regulator (9, 9a) in the return tube (8, 8a) regulates the differential pressure (9, 9a) between the tube (5, 5a) and the fuel cell system (6, 6a) to a pre-determined value (Δp). A second dosing stage may be installed down flow from the first dosing stage. If two separate dosing systems are used for the methanol and water, a common pump motor may be used.

DE 197 55 813 A1

The invention disclosed in this patent relates to a process for operating a system for the water vapor reforming of a hydrocarbon. The system includes a reactor which is suitable for POX operation as well as for a reforming operation, an evaporator, a hydrogen separating stage, and a catalytic burner device. A first part of the catalytic burner device is in thermal contact with the reforming reactor, and a second part of the burner device is in thermal contact with the evaporator. An air/hydrocarbon intermediate feeding pipe for the reactor and a pressure maintaining valve are provided for changing the reactor between the POX operation and the reforming operation. According to the process, during cold start of the system, a heating operation is carried out during which the reactor is first used in the POX operation at a lower pressure and subsequently is used for the reforming operation and

simultaneously the pressure is increased to the normal operating pressure. The invention is particularly useful for the water vapor reforming of methanol for obtaining hydrogen for a fuel-cell-operated motor vehicle.

DE 199 47 254 A1

The device disclosed in this patent is used to supply liquid media to the consumers of a fuel cell system, comprising a feed pump which is considerably more economical in comparison with prior art. Controllable dosing valves (22) are thus provided in between the feed pump (21) and the respective consumers.

DE 100 03 274 A1

The invention disclosed in this patent relates to a system for supplying at least two components of a gas producing system of a fuel cell installation, especially the stages of a multi-stage reformation process, with an evaporated and/or superheated hydrocarbon or a hydrocarbon/water mixture. The inventive system comprises at least two heat exchangers that have one zone for the media and one zone for the supply of thermal energy each. The heat exchangers are associated with one of the components each, the zone used for the supply of thermal energy to the at least two heat exchangers being connected in tandem. Alternatively, the inventive system comprises a heat exchanger and downstream of the media zone thereof a valve device which supplies the evaporated and/or superheated volume flow to at least one respective section of pipes that leads to one of the at least two components, respectively.

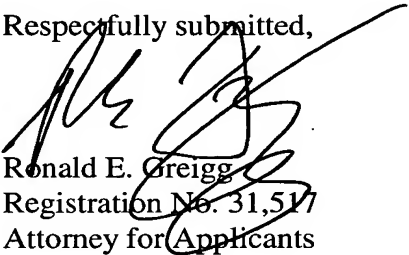
10/509053
DT09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 SEP 2004

DE 100 20 089 A1

The method disclosed in this publication involves feeding a circular volumetric flow (dv_2/dt) from a reservoir tank (3) to a branch region (6) and back by a pump. The flow (dv_1/dt) passes from the branch region to the system or component (1) into which it is dosed in a quantity predetermined for each point in time. The flow is selected as much smaller than the circular flow. Independent claims are also included for the following: a device for dosed introduction of liquid volume flows into a system.

Examination of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 24, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)

Application Number

R.41009 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 SEP 2004

Applicant(s)

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Filing Date

September 24, 2004

Group Art Unit

10/509058

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		DE 44 25 634 C1	26-Oct.-95	Germany				✓
		DE 197 55 813 A1	01-July-99	Germany				✓
		DE 199 47 254 A1	05-Apr.-01	Germany				✓
		DE 100 03 274 A1	09-Aug.-01	Germany				✓
		DE 100 20 089 A1	31.Oct.-01	Germany				✓

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.